

### Animal Encounters

What is that crawling, slithering, sliding, flying, and hopping across the trail or even in your backyard? Each week we will look at one of our resident education animals for a mini lesson of animals that call Tennessee home. Come out and meet the best teachers we have – the animals!

Ages: All  
Day: Saturdays in July & August  
Time: 1:30 – 2 p.m.  
Location: Wilderness Station  
Fee: Free  
Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,  
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov



### Puppets on the Porch

You heard it right! The Wilderness Station now has puppet shows every Saturday on the front porch. Kids and parents of all ages will enjoy our lively shows that feature all sorts of fun characters. Laugh and sing along with our wild animal puppets as they teach us about their habitats and daily lives. A new show will be featured every week, so join us on the porch for what is sure to be a funny and educational time!

Ages: All  
Day: Saturdays in July and August  
Time: 3 p.m.  
Fee: Free  
Location: Wilderness Station  
Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,  
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov

### Wild Things

Welcome to the Wilderness! Introduce your child to the wonders of nature in this fun-filled class designed just for them. Each week the adventure starts with unique songs and a discussion about the animal of the week. We reinforce each topic with a simple craft and a nature hike or fun activity. Join us each Wednesday and learn about the wonderful, wacky wildlife that lives in Tennessee. Registration is required. Please call the Tuesday before class to register.

Ages: 1 – 4 years with adult  
Day: Wednesdays  
Times: 9:30 a.m. (Call on the Tuesday before for registration.)  
Fee: \$3.00 or Premium Pass  
Location: Wilderness Station  
Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,  
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov. Registration required.

### Have your child's next birthday party at the Wilderness Station

Choose one of our exciting nature-themed programs led by a park naturalist. Visit our website for full descriptions, pricing, and scheduling at [www.murfreesborotn.gov/parks](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/parks) under Wilderness Station.



### Tales and Trails

What child doesn't love a good story? Or a fun hike in the woods? Each week, the Wilderness Station will offer a new story that your child will love. We will discover fun and interesting tales about Tennessee's native wildlife and their habitats. Then, we will bring these tales to life by exploring the trails that are all around us. Curious children and adults alike are sure to enjoy this fun new program. Registration is required. Please call the Tuesday before class to register.

Ages: 4 – 7 years with adult  
Day: Wednesdays  
Time: 10:30 a.m. (Call on the Tuesday before for reservations.)  
Fee: \$3.00 or Premium Pass  
Location: Wilderness Station  
Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,  
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov. Reservation required.

### Nature Play Days

It's a play date with Mother Nature! Come play in the Nature Play Area and help build your child's interest in learning to play with objects found in nature. Build a fort, play in the water, climb, crawl, get dirty!



Programmer-led activities such as mud painting, sculpting with clay, chalk art, and balance and agility competitions. It will be naturally fun for all. \*\*Kids will get muddy and wet.

Ages: 1 year and up with adult  
Dates: July 7, July 21, August 4 & 18  
Day: Thursdays  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Fee: Free  
Location: Wilderness Station  
Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017,  
outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov

### Educational Backpacks

The Greenway and Wilderness Station offer free educational backpacks for morning and afternoon checkout. These backpacks are a great way to introduce your children or students to nature. Themes include: Birds, Trees, Insects, and Wildflowers. Backpacks may be checked out at the Wilderness Station at Barfield Crescent Park.



### Teachers, Homeschoolers, and Scouts:

Field Trips and Field Study opportunities for your group. We have added several new programs to share with your group. We can now accommodate large classes or small rotational groups. All programs are correlated with state standards or can be adjusted to satisfy badge requirements. Contact Rachel Singer for a complete list of programs and locations at 615-217-3017 or [rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov) or check out our website at [www.murfreesborotn.gov/parks](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/parks) under Wilderness Station or Greenway & Wetlands.

## Investigation: Wilderness Station

A program that awakens the Sherlock in all of us! Join us for some CSI (Critic Scene Investigation). Witness wildlife crimes and determine the motive and the perpetrator. Magnifying glasses and investigative journals will be provided. Registration is required.

Ages: 7 - 10 years  
 Dates: August 6  
 Day: Saturday  
 Time: 10:00 a.m.  
 Fee: \$3.00  
 Location: Wilderness Station  
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, [outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov](mailto:outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov). Registration required.

## Trash to Treasure

One person's trash is another person's treasure! Come out to the Wilderness Station and put your building skills to work. We will take items destined for the landfill and breathe new life into them. You can use your imagination to build anything you can think of. Building time will be one hour, and then the judges will examine the finished products and award a first prize. Age groups will be sorted based on registration. Registration is required.

Ages: 7 - 15 years  
 Dates: August 27  
 Day: Saturday  
 Time: 11:30 a.m.  
 Fee: \$3.00  
 Location: Wilderness Station  
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, [outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov](mailto:outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov). Registration required.



## What's Up Night Hikes

Summer nights are great for spotting owls and bats, listening to a chorus of frogs and insects, discovering glowing eyes, and finding fascinating critters that become active at night. Join us throughout the summer to discover the forest under the night sky. Reservations are required.

Ages: All  
 Date: July 5 – Super Spiders  
 July 19 – Bats and Bugs  
 July 26 – Amazing Owls  
 Day: Tuesdays  
 Time: 7:30 p.m.  
 Fee: \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 per family  
 Location: Wilderness Station  
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, [outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov](mailto:outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov)

## Adult Evening Kayak Float

Float down the cool, meandering Stones River and forget about the hustle and bustle of city life. Enjoy the company of new and old friends as you appreciate your river experience and watch the day melt away. Share the evening with a loved one or head out on a solo adventure. Wildlife, birds, and summer wildflowers are sure to appear on this excursion. Space is limited, and reservations are required. All equipment and instruction are provided.



Ages: Adult  
 Dates: July 9  
 Day: Saturday  
 Time: 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
 Fee: \$15.00 per person  
 Location: TBA depending on water levels  
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, [rsinger@murfreeborotn.gov](mailto:rsinger@murfreeborotn.gov)

## FREE Summer Concert – Grizzly Goat

Creatively infusing a Mumford and Sons, bluegrass flavor and a rock 'n' roll vibe, the band Grizzly Goat has created a new music genre in their own right. "As a band we go all the way from 'O Brother Where Art Thou?' bluegrass to almost Black Keys blues rock," Nate Waggoner, founder and lead singer of the band said in a recent interview. Join in the fun at Barfield Crescent Park for an outdoor, summer concert. It will be fun for the whole family. Please bring chairs/blankets for seating.

Ages: All  
 Date: Friday, August 12  
 Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
 Fee: Free  
 Location: Pavilion #7 in Barfield Crescent Park  
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, [outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov](mailto:outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov)

## Hummingbird Festival

Barfield Crescent Park is home to hundreds of hummingbirds. Many people come to the Wilderness Station to enjoy the chatter and beauty of these tiny birds throughout the season. Come and join us in celebrating these amazing creatures as they get ready to embark on a magnificent journey. Cyndi Routledge of Southeastern Avian Research (SEAR) will share her knowledge and experience with these flying gems. Children's activities, hummingbird merchandise, and much more await you on this day. Join us in the morning and again in the afternoon as SEAR bands hummingbirds – see description on next page for details.

Ages: All  
 Date: Saturday, September 3  
 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
 Fee: Free  
 Location: Wilderness Station  
 Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, [outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov](mailto:outdoormurfreesboro@murfreeborotn.gov)





### Murfreesboro Bird Club Hike

Join us for our monthly walk as we search together for summer migrants and resident birds of Tennessee. Murfreesboro's Bird Club welcomes all levels of experience and we encourage anyone who is interested in birds or bird behavior to join us! Please bring your own binoculars if you have them. We have a few to lend out on a first-come, first-served basis. We look forward to seeing you!

Ages: 6 and up

Days, Dates and Locations:

Saturday, June 4- Gateway Island, meet at W. College St. Trailhead

Thursday, July 7- Oaklands

Saturday, August 6- Thompson Lane Trailhead

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Fee: Free

Contact: Niki Jordan, 615-217-3017, njordan@murfreesborotn.gov

### Wag It Better presents Dog Foster 101 Seminar

Join us to learn the ins and outs of fostering a dog in your home or starting a foster program for your rescue/shelter. We will discuss dog body language, introducing dogs, crate & house training, & leash walking. There will be live demos with the dogs of OpEd and lots of hands-on training! Sponsored by Operation Education Rescue.

Date: June 4

Day: Saturday

Time: 10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Wilderness Station

Fee: \$20.00 – lunch is included

Contact: Please register at [www.wagitbetter.com](http://www.wagitbetter.com) or [contact.heather@wagitbetter.com](mailto:contact.heather@wagitbetter.com)

### Vine, Tree and Shrub Hike

Are maple trees really either hard or soft? Are Horse Apple, Bodark and Osage Orange the same tree? Are Eastern Red Cedars true cedars? Find the answer to these and other vine, tree and shrub questions as you hike the Wilderness Station's trails to look at the unique leaf, twig, bark and fruit characteristics of trees, shrubs, and a few interesting vine species found in the park. Learn easy ways to remember how to identify them. A simple key-to-tree identification will be provided for participants to take home.

Ages: Adults

Date: Saturday, August 13

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Wilderness Station

Fee: Free

Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, [outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov). Reservation required.

### Hummingbird Banding

Bird banding is a valuable tool in the education and conservation of a species. Join trained hummingbird bander, Cyndi Routledge of Southeastern Avian Research, as she captures, bands, and releases hummingbirds at Barfield.

Ages: All

Date: Saturday, September 3

Time: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (depending on bird presence)

Fee: Free

Location: Wilderness Station

Contact: Wilderness Station, 615-217-3017, [outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:outdoormurfreesboro@murfreesborotn.gov)

### Homeschool in the Wilderness

Supplement your homeschooler's science curriculum with this in-depth, 8-month program. We will explore a new topic each month through hands-on experiments, live observations, interpretive hikes and group discoveries. Registration begins September 1, 2016. Limited spaces will be available, so register early!

#### Tadpoles:

Ages: 8 – 10 years

Dates: September 2016 – May 2017

Days: Last Thursday of the month

#### Bullfrogs:

Ages: 11 -13 years

Dates: September 2016 – May 2017

Days: Last Friday of the month

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Fee: \$75.00 for 8-month program

Location: Wilderness Station

Contact: Rachel Singer, 615-217-3017, [rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:rsinger@murfreesborotn.gov)

Registration is required.



### Trail Worms



Join us every Friday in June and July on the Greenway to discover different native plants and animal species that call Murfreesboro home. We will meet at a Greenway trailhead and go

for a short walk, create a craft project, sing songs and read a story. Each week we will explore a new topic specific to Middle Tennessee! Come enjoy the beautiful Greenway with us and learn new things – rain or shine!

Ages: All

Time: 10:00 am – 10:45 am

Day: Fridays

Dates/Locations:

General Bragg Trailhead - June 3, 10, 17, & 24

Old Fort Park Trailhead- July 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

Fee: Free

Contact: Heather Mullican, 615-893-2141, [hmullican@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:hmullican@murfreesborotn.gov).

### Nature Story Time

Take a break with us this summer as we enjoy family-friendly storybooks in the great outdoors. Come sit under a tree, beside the Stones River, or in a grassy field and listen to some great nature-themed books while taking in the sights and sounds of our surroundings.

Ages: 3 years and older

Time: 10:00- 10:30 am

Day: Mondays

Dates/ Locations:

Cason Lane Trailhead- June 6 & 13

General Bragg Trailhead- June 20 & 27

NO NATURE STORY TIME- July 4

Old Fort Park Pavilion 3- July 11, 18, & 25

Fee: Free

Contact: Heather Mullican, 615-893-2141, [hmullican@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:hmullican@murfreesborotn.gov)

## Small Fry Tri – A Triathlon for Preschoolers

Murfreesboro's smallest triathlon! Kids will run, bike and "swim" (run through sprinklers) to the finish line, where every participant receives a trophy. Parents, older siblings and personal trainers may help. Bring a bicycle or tricycle and a helmet. Preregister and get your race packet early at Sports\*Com, Patterson Community Center or the Wilderness Station between Wednesday, June 1, and Thursday, June 9.



**Ages:** 2 – 6 years  
**Date:** Saturday, June 11  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Races will be held approximately every 10 minutes. Day-of-event registration: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
**Fee:** \$6 (includes trophy)  
**Location:** Old Fort Park near Kids' Castle  
**Contact:** Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, [mtate@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:mtate@murfreesborotn.gov)

## Boat Day with SRWA

Try out different types of canoes and kayaks with the help from volunteers of Stones River Watershed Association. You'll learn boating basics, paddling strokes and boat safety from knowledgeable volunteers. Discover characteristics and advantages of each craft. Paddles and personal flotation devices will be provided.

**Ages:** All  
**Date:** Saturday, June 25  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Fee:** Free  
**Location:** Manson Pike Trailhead, 1208 Searcy St. (off Medical Center Parkway)  
**Contact:** Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, [mtate@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:mtate@murfreesborotn.gov)

## A Stone's Throw Away

We need your help cleaning up the Greenway! Volunteers will pick up trash beside the trail along the banks of the Stones River and Lytle Creek, or in the water. Trash bags, gloves, water and snacks will be provided.

**Bring:** Wear sturdy shoes and clothes that can get wet and dirty.  
**Ages:** All  
**Date:** Saturday, June 4  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Fee:** Free  
**Location:** Meet at Old Fort Park, Pavilion 3  
**Contact:** Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, [mtate@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:mtate@murfreesborotn.gov)

## Island Fun Run

Help us celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month with a fun run on the island. Music, prizes, and FREE for all ages! Run or walk the one-mile route as many times as you'd like. Parking: W. College Street Trailhead and General Bragg Trailhead. No preregistration necessary.

**Date:** Friday, July 15  
**Time:** 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
**Fee:** Free  
**Location:** Gateway Island and Trail  
**Contact:** Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, [mtate@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:mtate@murfreesborotn.gov) or Becki Johnson, 615-890-5333, [bjohnson@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:bjohnson@murfreesborotn.gov)

## Murph's Fun Run

Run, walk or hop one mile around the Gateway Island and help keep our Murfreesboro City Schools healthy this year! Every finisher will receive a Murph's Fun Run medal. Souvenir t-shirts will be available for purchase. Register on site the day of the run; no preregistration necessary.

**Date:** Saturday, August 20  
**Ages:** Kids of all ages; parents may assist  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Fee:** One new school supply : glue sticks or 2-pocket, 3-prong folders.  
**Location:** Gateway Island and Trail  
**Contact:** Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, [mtate@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:mtate@murfreesborotn.gov) or Allison Davidson, 615-895-5040, [adavidson@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:adavidson@murfreesborotn.gov)

## Greenway Art Festival – Call for Artists

Talented artists will display and sell their work along the Greenway trail at Old Fort Park. Browse through booths of original artwork in a family-friendly park setting. Oils, acrylics, watercolors, pottery, sculpture, and other original artwork will be available, as well as music, food vendors and kids' art activities. This is a juried festival. Applications are available to download on the Greenway page at [www.murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov), or by contacting the Greenway Office at 615-893-2141.



**Date:** Saturday, September 17  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Fee:** \$25 - \$35 booth space fees for artists; free to attend.  
**Location:** Old Fort Park  
**Contact:** Melinda Tate, 615-893-2141, [mtate@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:mtate@murfreesborotn.gov)



The tenth annual Murfreesboro Half Marathon will be held Saturday, October 8, 2016. Registration begins June 1, 2016. Both online and mail-in forms will be available.

The 13.1-mile race is scheduled to start at 7:00 a.m. with a wheelchair start at 6:55 a.m. Because the course runs by the geographic center of Tennessee and begins and ends at Middle Tennessee State University, it has been tagged "The Middle Half."

The course goes down scenic tree-lined Main Street and Maney Avenue to Oaklands Historic House Museum. Runners will circle the Rutherford County Courthouse on the Square, pass by MTSU's Fraternity Row and the obelisk on Old Lascassas Highway, and then finish on the MTSU track.

For more information and to register, visit [www.TheMiddleHalf.com](http://www.TheMiddleHalf.com).

